

Table 1—Food security status of U.S. households by income level, average 1995, 1996, and 1997

	Total	Food secure	Food insecure		
			All	Without hunger	With hunger
All households:					
Number (thousands)	101,320	90,298	11,022	7,097	3,925
Percent of row total	100	89.1	10.9	7.0	3.9
Sample size (unweighted)	127,558	114,450	13,108	8,525	4,583
Low-income households (<1.85 poverty):					
Number (thousands)	33,168	25,022	8,146	5,163	2,983
Percent of row total	100	75.4	24.6	15.6	9.0
Percent of column total	32.7	27.7	73.9	72.7	76.0
Sample size (unweighted)	42,541	32,728	9,813	6,292	3,521
Middle/high-income households (>1.85 poverty):*					
Number (thousands)	57,087	54,930	2,157	1,480	677
Percent of row total	100	96.2	3.8	2.6	1.2
Percent of column total	56.3	60.8	19.6	20.9	17.2
Sample size (unweighted)	75,703	72,976	2,727	1,873	854
Income not known:					
Number (thousands)	11,065	10,346	719	454	265
Percent of row total	100	93.5	6.5	4.1	2.4
Percent of column total	10.9	11.5	6.5	6.4	6.8
Sample size (unweighted)	9,314	8,746	568	360	208
Households with annual income >\$50,000:*					
Number (thousands)	24,328	23,998	330	250	80
Percent of row total	100	98.6	1.4	1.0	0.3
Percent of column total	24.0	26.6	3.0	3.5	2.0
Sample size (unweighted)	32,008	31,581	427	325	102

*Middle/high-income category includes households with income above \$50,000.

Note: All prevalence estimates were calculated using household supplement weights.

Source: Prepared by ERS using data from the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements, April 1995, September 1996, and April 1997.

Table 2—Item statistics from independent Rasch-model scaling of food security items for low-income and middle/high-income households

Item	Item score		Std. error		Infit (mean sq)		Outfit (mean sq)	
	Income level*		Income level*		Income level*		Income level*	
	Low	Mid/ high	Low	Mid/ high	Low	Mid/ high	Low	Mid/ high
Worried food would run out	1.75	2.46	0.03	0.04	1.13	1.14	3.73	1.99
Food bought didn't last	3.17	3.50	0.02	0.04	0.91	0.94	1.05	1.14
Could not afford to eat balanced meals	3.55	3.78	0.02	0.04	1.04	1.04	1.47	1.51
Children fed few low-cost foods	3.94	4.05	0.03	0.05	1.18	1.13	1.47	1.20
Adult cut size or skipped meals	5.35	4.87	0.02	0.04	0.86	0.88	0.87	0.83
Couldn't feed children balanced meals	5.38	5.65	0.03	0.06	1.07	1.11	0.94	1.05
Adult ate less than felt he/she should	5.43	5.21	0.02	0.04	0.95	0.91	1.01	0.89
Adult cut size/ skipped meals, 3+ mos.	6.31	6.26	0.03	0.05	0.91	0.96	0.76	0.74
Children not eating enough	6.84	7.18	0.04	0.08	1.07	1.03	0.82	1.00
Adult hungry but didn't eat	7.31	7.00	0.03	0.05	0.91	0.93	0.79	0.90
Respondent lost weight	8.45	8.25	0.04	0.07	1.14	1.05	1.18	0.98
Cut size of child's meals	8.79	8.58	0.05	0.12	1.08	1.00	1.24	0.97
Adult did not eat whole day	8.82	8.92	0.04	0.08	0.94	0.97	1.12	1.27
Child hungry	9.13	8.97	0.06	0.13	0.91	0.92	0.74	1.36
Adult did not eat whole day, 3+ mos.	9.52	9.88	0.05	0.10	0.88	0.87	0.49	0.49
Child skipped meal	9.91	9.41	0.07	0.15	0.89	0.93	1.12	0.57
Child skipped meal, 3+ mos.	10.51	10.08	0.08	0.18	0.86	0.90	0.58	0.79
Child did not eat whole day	11.84	11.97	0.13	0.38	0.99	1.19	3.59	8.94
Mean	7.00	7.00						
Standard deviation	2.74	2.60						
Mean absolute deviation	2.36	2.25						
Discrimination coefficient	1.00	1.00						
Number of cases (nonextreme)	15,029	5,158						

*Low-income households had income below 1.85 times the poverty line. Middle/high-income includes all other households except those with income data missing.

Source: Prepared by ERS using data from the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplements, April 1995, September 1996, and April 1997.